

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 OIC-02
NSF-01 NAS-01 AID-05 EB-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 OES-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /126 W
-----172004 081869 /42

R 171556Z FEB 77
FM USMISSION USUN NY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2447
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EGEN, UN, ECOSOC
SUBJ: FIRST SESSION OF PREPCOM OF UN CONFERENCE ON
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT: CONCLUDING
THREE DAYS AND DELEGATION WRAP-UP

REF: (A) USUN 296; (B) USUN 332; (C) USUN 395;
(D) USUN 396; (E) STATE 031565

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1. SUMMARY: THE FIRST SESSION OF PREPCOM OF UN CONFER-
ENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT CONCLUDED
ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, ONE DAY BEHIND SCHEDULE. DELAY WAS
DUE LARGELY TO NECESSITY OF NEGOTIATING NEW TEXT ON GUIDE-
LINES FOR THE PREPARATION OF NATIONAL PAPERS, BASED ON VARI-
OUS EFFORTS TO FIND COMPROMISE BETWEEN ACASTD TEXT AND A

RIVAL TEXT ORIGINALLY PRESENTED BY VENEZUELA AND LATER ADOPTED (AND ADAPTED) BY THE G-77 AS A WHOLE. U.S. DELEGATION BELIEVES GUIDELINES WILL STILL PERMIT DEVELOPMENT OF USEFUL NATIONAL PAPERS. THE CONFERENCE ALSO ADOPTED THE PROGRAM OF WORK FOR THE PREPARATORY PERIOD (REFTEL D), WHILE POSTPONING OTHER AGENDA ITEMS NOT REQUIRING IMMEDIATE ACTION. THE FOURTH REGULAR CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 1978) WILL ACT AS A PREPCOM FOR ONE WEEK, IT WAS DECIDED. A STATEMENT OF THE CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN SHOULD PERMIT THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL TO REVISE HIS BUDGETARY REQUEST TO INCLUDE FUNDS NECESSARY FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUY GRESFORD OF AUSTRALIA AS DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE, AN APPOINTMENT DELEGATION BELIEVES DESERVES USG SUPPORT.

2. OVER-ALL, DELEGATION BELIEVES POSSIBILITY FOR A CONSTRUCTIVE CONFERENCE STILL EXISTS, ASSUMING GOOD WORK IS DONE ON NATIONAL PAPERS. THIS VIEW IS SHARED BY MOST WESTERN DELEGATIONS WHICH ACTIVELY PARTICIPATED IN THE CONFERENCE. NEVERTHELESS, FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCES OF VIEWS OF G-77 AND WESTERN DELEGATIONS ON THE NATURE OF THE CONFERENCE WERE EVIDENT THROUGHOUT AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO PERSIST. THE 77 ARE NOT NECESSARILY UNITED ON ALL POINTS, HOWEVER, WITH THE AFRICANS IN PARTICULAR SENSITIVE TO EVIDENCE THAT LDC INPUT TO CONFERENCE HAS BEEN ALMOST ENTIRELY LATIN AMERICAN. IN CONTEXT OF PREPARATORY WORK FOR THE CONFERENCE, THE UNITED STATES WILL HAVE TO BEGIN WORK ON ITS NATIONAL PAPER (DUE MAY 1, 1978) AND MAY RECEIVE A REQUEST TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN THE PREPARATION OF THEIRS. END SUMMARY. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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3. GUIDELINES (AGENDA ITEM 3). INFORMAL NEGOTIATIONS ON GUIDELINES BEGAN ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, AND LASTED UNTIL AFTER MIDNIGHT OF THE ELEVENTH. THE AGREED TEXT, PRIOR TO FINAL HONING IN PLENARY ON FEBRUARY 14, IS INCLUDED IN DOCUMENT E/C.8/L.84. TEXT INCORPORATES PARTS I THROUGH III OF DRAFT SUBMITTED BY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE APPLICATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (ACASTD) (E/C.8/46), ALBEIT MOVED TO THE REAR OF THE DOCUMENT WITH A FOOTNOTE THAT THESE WERE "NOT NEGOTIATED." BASIC AND SPECIFIC GUIDELINES (PART I OF NEW DOCUMENT) REPRESENT A DOUBLE PROCESS OF MELDING PART IV OF ACASTD DRAFT WITH ORIGINAL LATIN AMERICAN PROPOSAL (REFTEL B), FIRST AMONG G-77 AND LATER IN INFORMAL NEGOTIATIONS. GUIDELINES FOLLOW THE CONFERENCE AGENDA GIVEN IN ECOSOC RESOLUTION 2028 (LXI) PARAGRAPH 3 AND PROVIDE FOR AN IDENTIFICATION OF PROBLEMS, PRIORITIES, AND POLICIES DEALING WITH THE APPLICATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO DEVELOPMENT. THE FINAL DRAFT CLEARLY REFLECTS A STRONGER INJECTION OF NORTH/SOUTH ECONOMIC ISSUES (SUCH AS

"TECHNOLOGICAL DEPENDENCY") THAN THERE WAS IN THE ACASTD PAPER, WHILE IT RETAINS ACASTD'S EMPHASIS ON INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY. ON THE OTHER HAND, MOST OF THE STRONGEST LANGUAGE ON QUANTIFICATION IN THE G-77 DRAFT WAS REMOVED. IN ALL, U.S. DELEGATION CONSIDERS NEW GUIDELINES CAN STILL PROMOTE SERIOUS AND CONSTRUCTIVE ANALYSES OF NEEDS AND PRIORITIES TO BE MADE IN NATIONAL PAPERS AND, HENCE, CONTINUE TO OFFER HOPE FOR A SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE. THE FOLLOWING PARSAGE, WHICH ORIGINATED WITH THE G-77, MAY SERVE TO SUMMARIZE THE MAJOR THRUST REQUIRED IN THE NATIONAL PAPERS PREPARED IN THE U.S. AND OTHER INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES:

"DEVELOPED COUNTRIES SHOULD ANALYSE THE RELATIVE SUCCESS OR FAILURE OF THEIR RESPECTIVE POLICIES OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION AS THEY AFFECT EFFORTS OF DEVELOPING NATIONS TO BUILD ENDOGENOUS SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CAPABILITIES;" (FROM PARAGRAPH 2(B) (IV), PAGE 9 OF E/C.8/L.84). THE CORRESPONDING EFFORT REQUIRED OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IS NOTED IN PARAGRAPH (V), WHICH FOLLOWS: "IN THE CONTEXT OF THEIR NATIONAL PAPERS THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SHOULD SUBMIT COMMENTS ON THIS SUBITEM. THE COMMENTS SHOULD PROVIDE ANALYTICAL EXPLANATIONS ON ENCOURAGING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN AND BY INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES TO BE ORIENTED IN NEW, MORE EFFECTIVE AND PRACTICAL WAYS AND TOWARDS THE SOLUTION OF CONCRETE DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES:"

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4. PROGRAM OF WORK (AGENDA ITEM 4)

A. SUBJECT AREAS

IN PLENARY U.S. DELEGATION PROPOSED AMENDMENT CALLING
FOR EXPLANATIONS TO ACCOMPANY CHOICES OF SUBJECT
AREAS SUBMITTED BY REGIONS. AFTER VENEZUELAN AND MEXICAN
DELEGATIONS REJECTED PROPOSAL IN THAT IT UPSET "DELICATE
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COMPROMISE" ON SUBJECT AREAS, AND INDIAN DELEGATION EX-
PRESSED VIEW THAT IT WAS INCONCEIVABLE THAT COMMISSIONS
WOULD SUBMIT CHOICES WITHOUT EXPLAINING THEIR MOTIVES, WE
WITHDREW OUR AMENDMENT, SINCE THE POINT WAS CLEAR MADE.

B. "INTERREGIONAL" MEETING OF THE G-77

UN BUDGET DIRECTOR LAVAU STATED, IN HIS DISCUSSION
OF THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE AGREED TEXT, THAT SUCH
A MEETING WOULD CARRY NO FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS FOR THE UN
(IN OTHER WORDS, THAT IF G-77 WANTED A CLOSED MEETING, IT
WOULD NOT COME OUT OF THE CONFERENCE BUDGET). TRAVEL FOR
CONFERENCE SECRETARY GENERAL AND STAFF TO SUCH A MEETING
WOULD PRESUMABLY COME OUT OF CONFERENCE FUNDS REGULARLY AL-
LOTTED TO TRAVEL, HE SAID, AND HENCE WOULD LIKEWISE INVOLVE
NO ADDITIONAL COSTS.

5. DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL (REFTELS C AND E)

ORIGINAL AUSTRALIAN TEXT PROVIDING FOR A DEPUTY SECRETARY
GENERAL AT ASYG LEVEL (OFFICIALLY PRESENTED BY
BRAZIL) WAS WITHDRAWN IN FAVOR OF A LESS SPECIFIC DRAFT RESO-

LUTION. EXPECTED CONSENSUS ON THE NEW TEXT WAS THWARTED WHEN CONFERENCE SECRETARY GENERAL DA COSTA STATED HIS INTENTION TO NAME GRESFORD TO DEPUTY POSITION PRIOR TO VOTE, WITH FRG THEN BALKING. FINAL COMPROMISE WAS FOR CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN TO READ STATEMENT NOTING DA COSTA'S REMARKS AND EXPRESSING "WIDE-SPREAD RECOGNITION THAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE WOULD NEED AN ADEQUATELY STAFFED SECRETARIAT." WE UNDERSTAND THAT THIS STATEMENT WILL BE SUFFICIENT TO PERMIT UN SECRETARY GENERAL IF HE WISHES TO REVISE HIS INITIAL BUDGET REQUEST FOR THE CONFERENCE (A/C.5/31/89) TO PROVIDE FOR ADDITIONAL POST AT ASYG LEVEL FOR GRESFORD. ONE NEW HITCH IS THAT CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT INCLUDES A CALL FOR "DUE REGARD TO THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUITABLE GEOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION AT THE LEVEL OF PRINCIPAL OFFICER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND ABOVE," INSERTED AT INSISTENCE OF AFRICANS. GIVEN SECRETARY GENERAL DA COSTA'S OCCASIONALLY ERRATIC PERFORMANCE, DELEGATION CONTINUES TO RECOMMEND USG FULLY SUPPORT GRESFORD APPOINTMENT.

6. OTHER ITEMS

A. AGENDA FOR FOURTH (REGULAR) CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD IV - JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 1978)

ALTHOUGH SEVERAL DELEGATIONS (MAINLY WESTERN, INCLUDING U.S.) SUGGESTED REDUCTIONS IN DRAFT PROVISIONAL AGENDA (DOCUMENT E/C.8/L.78), SECRETARIAT AND MOST G-77 COUNTRIES URGED IT REMAIN INTACT, SUBJECT TO REDUCTION AT CONFERENCE ITSELF. IT WAS AGREED THAT ONE WEEK OF CSTD IV WOULD BE USED AS PREPCOM FOR CONFERENCE, INCLUDING CONSIDERATION OF REGIONAL CHOICES OF SUBJECT AREAS.

B. DRAFT RULES OF PROCEDURE; PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR SECOND PREPCOM (PREPCOM II)

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN ON THESE. THE FORMER HAS BEEN POSTPONED TO PREPCOM II, THE LATTER TO CSTD IV.

C. CONFERENCE ALSO PASSED TWO DRAFT RESOLUTIONS CALLING FOR (1) COORDINATION OF PREPARATORY WORK FOR THE CONFERENCE (I.E. PARTICIPATION BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES) AND (2) ADEQUATE FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR THE PREPARATORY WORK FOR THE CONFERENCE. IN COMMENTING ON THE LATTER RESOLUTION, BUDGET DIRECTOR LAVAU NOTED THAT SYG'S BUDGET REQUEST CURRENT FOR THE CONFERENCE (A/C.5/31/89) PROVIDED FOR SOME 80 MAN/MONTHS OF ADVISORY ASSISTANCE IN 1977 TO HELP DEVELOPING COUNTRIES PREPARE THEIR NATIONAL PAPERS. AS A RESULT, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO DELEGATION OBTAINED AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION TO INCLUDE REQUEST THAT "FINANCIAL RESOURCES OF AN

ADEQUATE AMOUNT BE ALLOCATED TO THE BUDGET OF THE CONFERENCE
TO ENSURE THE GREATEST COOPERATION WITH THE DEVELOPING COUN-
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TRIES AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME IN ORDER TO ALLOW FOR
THE PREPARATION OF NATIONAL DOCUMENTS." IN FINAL DEBATE
TRINIDAD EXPRESSLY REQUESTED THAT SYG'S INITIAL 80 MAN/MONTH
REQUEST BE DOUBLED. NOTE: AS BELGIAN DELEGATE NOTED, WITHOUT
OPPOSITION, FUNDS FOR BOTH ADDITIONAL CONSULTANTS FOR
NATIONAL PAPER PREPARATION AND FOR THE GRESFORD SLOT CAN
BE OBTAINED BY REDUCING SUBSTANTIALLY THE \$667,000 ALLOTTED
FOR "INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES" IN ORIGINAL CONFERENCE BUDGET
SUBMISSION. EARLIER IN SESSION, ICSU REPRESENTATIVE (REVILLE)
NOTED HIS ORGANIZATION'S WILLINGNESS TO ASSIST SECRETARIAT
IN LOCATING COMPETENT PERSONNEL FOR THIS TASK.

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7. WRAP-UP. AS NOTED ABOVE, U.S. DELEGATION CONSIDERS THAT CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS TO DATE (INCLUDING GUIDELINES AND WORK PROGRAM) CONTINUE TO HOLD OUT POSSIBILITY FOR CONSTRUCTIVE WORK IN PREPARATORY PERIOD AND AT CONFERENCE, PARTICULARLY IF NATIONAL PAPERS EXERCISE IS SUCCESSFUL. OUR GUARDED OPTIMISM IS SHARED BY MOST OF OTHER MAJOR WESTERN PARTICIPANTS IN INFORMAL NEGOTIATIONS, INCLUDING AUSTRALIA, SWEDEN, CANADA, AND THE UK. THE BELGIAN DELEGATION SOUNDED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A MORE CAUTIONARY NOTE IN CLOSING REMARKS.

8. NONETHELESS, WHILE DELEGATION BELIEVES GUIDELINES REPRESENT A LIVABLE COMPROMISE, NEGOTIATIONS ON GUIDELINES AND TIMETABLE REVEAL THAT THE GAP BETWEEN THE DOMINANT G-77 AND WESTERN CONCEPTIONS OF THE CONFERENCE CONTINUES TO EXIST. G-77 REMAIN VERY MUCH ON GUARD AGAINST WESTERN EFFORTS TO CONCENTRATE CONFERENCE AND CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS ON MORE "PRACTICAL" QUESTIONS (AS WITNESSED BY CONSTANT FRICTION OVER THE QUESTION OF THE ROLE OF THE SUBJECT AREAS), WHILE CONTINUING TO PRESS THEIR OWN VIEWS ON TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY. THESE DIVERGENCES WERE EVIDENT THROUGHOUT THE GREATER PART OF THE PREPCOM AND CANNOT BE GAINSAID BY THE CONCILIATORY ATMOSPHERE WHICH PREVAILED AT THE CONCLUSION.

9. G-77 VIEWS, HOWEVER, ARE FAR FROM COHESIVE. AFRICANS, AND SOME ASIANS AS WELL, WOULD HAVE PREFERRED ACASTD GUIDELINES, FOR EXAMPLE, AND THERE IS SOME CONCERN AMONG AT LEAST THE FORMER THAT THE CONFERENCE IS BECOMING A VEHICLE FOR THE LATIN AMERICANS. CLEARLY, THE MOST PROMINENT NON-WESTERN VOICES AT THE CONFERENCE, EXCEPT FOR THE CHAIRMAN (INDIA) WERE THOSE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL (BRAZIL) AND THE DELEGATIONS OF VENEZUELA AND TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, WITH MEXICO AND JAMAICA (AS WELL AS YUGOSLAVIA) IN SECONDARY ROLES. WESTERN UNITY WAS RENDERED MORE TENUOUS INITIALLY BY THE VARIOUS CONFLICTS OF VIEW OVER THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S PROPOSALS FOR HIS STAFF, ITS LOCATION, AND FOR THE CALENDAR OF PREPARATIONS. THE FRG, IN PARTICULAR, SEEMED TO BE PRIMARILY CONCERNED THROUGHOUT THE PREPCOM WITH DEFENDING THE POSITION OF ITS NATIONAL, DR. STANDKE, THE DIRECTOR OF THE SECRETARIAT OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (OST). BELGIANS, ON THE OTHER HAND, WERE PARTICULARLY FORCEFUL IN DEFENDING POSITIONS ADVANCED BY DA COSTA, AS WELL AS IN MAINTAINING THE IMPORTANCE OF SUBJECT AREAS CONCEPT. U.S. DELEGATION

MAINTAINED A RELATIVELY UNINVOLVED POSITION IN THESE INITIAL
DISPUTES WHILE PLAYING AN ACTIVE ROLE IN FINDING COMPROMISE
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LANGUAGE ON GUIDELINES. THIS APPROACH WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE
SERVED ALL OUR OBJECTIVES, INCLUDING OUR OFFER TO HOST THE
1979 CONFERENCE.

10. ACTION NEEDED. THE CONCLUSION OF THE FIRST
MEETING OF PREPARATORY COMMITTEE IS CLEARLY BEGINNING OF
ACTUAL PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES FOR THE CONFERENCE. FOR THE
UNITED STATES THIS WILL MEAN (A) BEGINNING OF WORK ON OUR
OWN NATIONAL PAPER, BEARING IN MIND THE RELEVANT POSITIONS
OF THE GUIDELINES, SUCH AS NOTED ABOVE; (B) POSSIBILITY
THAT THE CONFERENCE SECRETARY GENERAL MAY REQUEST US TO
PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN PREPARATION
OF THEIR NATIONAL ANALYSES, TO SUPPLEMENT RESOURCES AVAIL-
ABLE THROUGH CONFERENCE BUDGET WHICH MAY PROVE INADEQUATE.
DURING PREPCOM FRG, SWEDEN, AND CANADA STATED A WILLINGNESS
TO MAKE ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, MEETING AGENDA, TECHNOLOGICAL EXCHANGES, PLANNING MEETINGS, RESOLUTIONS, AMENDMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977USUNN00455
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770057-0626
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770229/aaaabacb.tel
Line Count: 411
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1eadffc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 8
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Reference: 77 USUN NEW YORK 296, 77 USUN NEW YORK 332, 77 USUN NEW YORK 395, 77 USUN NEW YORK 396, 77 STATE 31565
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3287515
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FIRST SESSION OF PREPCOM OF UN CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT: CONCLUDING THREE DAYS AND DELEGATION WRAP-UP
TAGS: EGEN, OCON, UN, ECOSOC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgwkey: odbcc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1eadffc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

